

Occurrence of otitis media in children and assessment of treatment options

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Otitis media is a more frequent occurrence in children and the disease may progress from acute to chronic state if appropriate intervention is not initiated. Two hundred and twelve children 6 months to 10 years were examined and treated for otitis media in a 13 month hospital based study. Exclusion criterion was history of antibiotic therapy 2 months to presentation at clinic. Acute otitis media (AOM) was diagnosed in 130 of the patients (25 in 6 months and 46 in 7 months to 12 months infants; 28 in children older than 1 year to 2 years; 19 in age group >2 years to 5 years; and 12 for children between 5 to 10 years) and 82 cases were of chronic otitis media (7 in 6 months and 30 in 7 months to 12 months infants; 15 in children older than 1 year to 2 years; 12 in age group >2 years to 5 years; and 18 for children between 5 to 10 years). Patients with AOM were given paracetamol only during the period of pain and effusion when present. Relapses occurred in 25 to 41.7% of cases with highest incidence in the age groups 7 months to 1 year and 2 to 5 years. Cases of recurrence were investigated bacteriologically and treated with amoxicillin or augmentin (amoxicillin + clavulanate). Chronic otitis media patients were assigned into three treatment groups; amoxicillin and augmentin prophylactic groups (27 patients each) and a treatment group based on culture and antibiotic susceptibility (CAS) test results (28 patients). Recovery occurred in 19, 24 and 27 patients in the amoxicillin, augmentin and CAS groups respectively with relapses seen only in the amoxicillin (5 cases) and augmentin (2 cases) groups. Infection persisted in 8, 3, and 1 patient in the amoxicillin, augmentin and CAS treated patients respectively. The high rate of recurrence in AOM and the success rate with antibiotic therapy for both AOM and COM suggest that antibiotics should be considered especially when culture and sensitivity patterns are established.

Biography

Egwari L. O is a Professor of Medical Microbiology at Covenant University with specialization in anaerobic bacteria in human infections. He is the director of Research and Development in Covenant University and has published many papers in reputable journals. He is a member of Anaerobes Society of the Americas.

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